

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR SOMERSET COUNTY  
FEBRUARY 1, 2011

At 2:00 P.M., the Board of County Commissioners for Somerset County met in regular session with President Rex Simpkins, Commissioner Vice-President Charles F. Fisher, Commissioner Craig N. Mathies, Sr., Commissioner Jerry S. Boston and Commissioner Randy Laird.

County Administrator-Clerk, Cynthia R. Ward, was also present.

Commissioner Mathies asked all present to join him in repeating the Lord's Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, it was carried 4-0 to dispense with the reading of the Minutes of the meetings held Tuesday, January 18, 2011, and approve them as presented.

Mr. Charles Cavanaugh appeared before the Board to discuss a bid award for the sewer lateral project at the Somerset County Sheriff's Office. Sealed bids that were opened and read aloud on Tuesday, December 7, 2011, were higher than expected. In an effort to reduce the cost of the project, Mr. Cavanaugh contacted the low bidder, Ryan Miller (Miller's Land Service) to discuss a proposed change which would eliminate the installation of one pump and electrical connections, thereby reducing the project cost from \$29,663.94 to \$12,387.00. To accomplish this, Mr. Cavanaugh recommended awarding the contract to the low bidder, Ryan Miller, for his original bid of \$29,663.94 and then approve a change order to eliminate the pump, reducing the contract cost to \$12,387.00.

A motion was made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Laird, to award the contract for the sewer lateral project to the low bidder, Ryan Miller, for his bid of \$29,663.94. The motion carried 4-0.

A motion was made by Commissioner Laird, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, to approve the recommended change order which eliminates one pump and electrical connections for a new project cost of \$12,387.00. The motion carried 4-0.

In other business, Mr. Cavanaugh reviewed the FY2010 Annual Report for the Somerset County Solid Waste Department, including:

- Total tons of waste accepted at the Landfill for FY10
- Total Expenses for FY10
- Total Revenue for FY10
- Projected Revenue for FY2012 (based on various transfer station permit fees and landfill tipping fees).

The Board will consider the fee structure and take action at their next meeting in two weeks.

At this time, Mrs. Ward reviewed correspondence and discussion items with the Board.

Several requests have been received for assistance from ECI Annex Inmates:

- 1) Somerset County Sanitary District, Inc. – painting the fire hydrants in the Crisfield area.
- 2) Crisfield American Legion Post 16 – wax and buff the floors
- 3) Mt. Vernon Fire Department – building and equipment maintenance
- 4) Marion Fire Department – custodial service

A motion was made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, to approve the requests (listed above) for assistance from ECI Annex Inmates. The motion carried 4-0.

A memorandum from Gary Pusey, Director of Technical and Community Services, was reviewed by the Board, requesting the building permit fees be waived for Viola Allen. Ms. Allen is the recipient of housing rehabilitation assistance which requires a building permit in the amount of \$247.20 for the replacement of an existing porch.

A motion was made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Mathies, to waive the building permit fee of \$247.20 for Viola Allen. The motion carried 4-0.

Mr. Robin Street, Manager, Somerset County Sanitary District, was now present before the Board to update the newly elected Commissioners on the status of the water and sewer services for the Wal-Mart property, which began in 2005 with the permitting process. Mr. Street reported that construction will begin in June of this year on the two wells that will be needed for Wal-Mart, estimated to take fourteen to fifteen months to complete. An easement has now been received for the wells. The sewer services, however, will remain on hold until a later date. Construction of the sewer services is estimated at \$700,000 with the yearly amortization cost projected to be \$39,000.

Mrs. Ward returned to reviewing discussion items.

The Board revisited a request received from Riggin Johnson of Shore Transit, regarding the local financial support for the JARC Grant (Job Access Reverse Commute) for Sunday transportation services. As requested by the Commissioners after the initial appearance by Shore

Transit, further information was obtained regarding the ridership statistics on all three runs – morning, midday, and evening. After a review of the information, the Board took action on the request for funding of the transportation program.

A motion was made by Commissioner Laird, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, to provide the local funding needed for the JARC Grant for Sunday transportation services, totaling \$37,896 for the two-year program. The motion carried 4-0.

The Board was reminded of a request to re-appoint Mr. Ladell Dorman to serve as member of the Somers Cove Marina Commission for a term of four years.

A motion was made by Commissioner Laird, seconded by Commissioner Mathies, to re-appoint Mr. Ladell Dorman to serve a four year term as member of the Somers Cove Marina Commission. The motion carried 4-0.

Mrs. Ward advised that a letter of support is being requested by the Friends of Teackle Mansion for their efforts to secure a \$5,000 grant from Preservation Maryland for a paint analysis of the major rooms of the Teackle Mansion.

A motion was made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, to submit a letter of support for The Friends of Teackle Mansion for their grant application to Preservation Maryland. The motion carried 4-0.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Laird, it was carried 4-0 to approve the issuance of Proclamations to both Beulah Jones and Mrs. Wells.

President Simpkins was presented with a Subrecipient Agreement for the Emergency Shelter Grant funding that was awarded to Somerset Committee for the Homeless, Inc. and will be received through Somerset County. The purpose of the grant, which totals \$15,369, is to improve the quality of existing emergency shelters, and to help meet the costs of operating shelters and of providing certain essential services to homeless individuals.

A motion was made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, to authorize President Simpkins to sign the Subrecipient Grant Agreement for the Emergency Shelter Grant. The motion carried 4-0.

Mr. Gary Pusey, Director of the Department of Technical and Community Services, was now present before the Board, accompanied by Debbie Lawson, Zoning Inspector, to provide some clarification to the proposed Floodplain Management Ordinance Update. The portion of the Ordinance that pertains to "Freeboard" is considered an enhancement to FEMA's

requirement. A one-foot freeboard is currently proposed, which means that there is at least one foot of clearance between the base flood elevation and the elevation of the lowest point of the lowest foot. The only other proposed change pertains to accessory buildings. The proposed Ordinance increases the size of accessory buildings which need to meet certain elevation requirements, such as flood vents, from the current 900 square feet to 1,200 square feet. At the conclusion of the review, the following action was taken:

A motion was made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, to adopt the proposed Floodplain Management Ordinance Update with the deletion of the Freeboard requirement for all residences. The motion carried 4-0.

Mr. Tom Johnson, owner of Eastern Shore Forest Products, was now present before the Board to request a personal property tax exemption for Fiscal Year 2011, totaling \$58,259.03. Mr. Johnson noted that he has previously been granted personal property tax exemptions for Fiscal Year 2009 and Fiscal Year 2010. However, the County Commissioners did not pursue legislation for a permanent exemption as they agreed to do in a meeting held March 18, 2008. Mr. Johnson stated that he has invested approximately \$2,637,000. in personal property, has paid approximately \$60,000 in taxes to Somerset County per year, and employs thirty individuals. With this investment, Mr. Johnson is present today to ask for the Board's consideration to grant another tax exemption for FY11 personal property taxes, and to introduce a legislative bill for a permanent tax exemption. Pursuant to the County's Local Code, the Board will take action on the request at their next regular meeting.

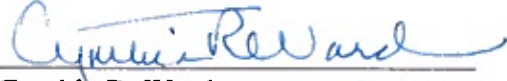
At this time, the Board was advised of the need to go into Closed Session, authority of State Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, Section 10-508 (a)(1)(i) – the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom it has jurisdiction.

A motion was made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, to adjourn the regular session of the Board and go into Closed Session, authority of State Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, Section 10-508 (a)(1)(i). The motion carried 4-0.

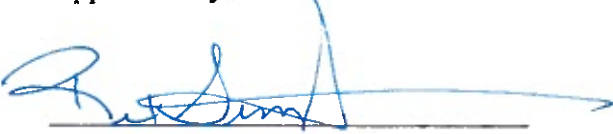
The amount drawn on the General Fund Checking Account for the week of February 1, 2011, from check no. 85167 through check no. 85231 was \$532,412.35

The amount drawn on the General Fund Checking Account for the week of February 8, 2011, from check no. 85232 through check no. 85259 was \$730,786.71

Respectfully Submitted:

  
Cynthia R. Ward  
County Administrator-Clerk

Approved By:

  
Board of County Commissioners  
For Somerset County

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